

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
June 13, 2002

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held at the United Nebraska Bank Center Meeting Room, Second Floor, West Wing, 111 South Dewey Street, North Platte, Nebraska on June 13, 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. CDT (6:30 p.m. MDT). A legal notice of the meeting was published in the NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH. A news release containing the agenda for the meeting and including the time and place was sent to the news media in the District.

BOARD MEMBERS BOARD MEMBERS NRCS PERS PRESENT

PRESENT

Jeff Baldridge
Eric Hansen
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

ABSENT

Todd Kramer
Dennis Schilz

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

OTHERS PRESENT

Ernie Lehmkuhler
STAFF PRESENT
Bill Carhart, Range Programs Coordinator
Glen Bowers, Water Programs Coordinator
Ann Fisher, Water Programs Technician
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Administrative Assistant
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O Miller, General Manager
Dave Slattery, Conservation Program Coor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Kramer and Mr. Schilz were excused.

Personnel – Mr. Rubenthaler introduced and welcomed Amy Mapes, the new Administrative Assistant.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors Notebooks Containing Information Items Available for Handout - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that each Director has a notebook containing information items that are available for handouts for others attending the meeting.

Other Items - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that notebooks containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans signed by the General Manager as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representative were available for information and that the notebooks would be passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present.

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PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum of the meeting was opened. There were no comments, and the Public Forum was closed.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for May 16, 2002 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the May 16, 2002 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the May 16, 2002 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldridge, Hansen, Kramer, Schilz, Wiseman

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a written report and she reviewed the report.

Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

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Water Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

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Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

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No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

Mr. Rubenthaler, Chairperson, presented the report.

Personnel Salaries for 2003 Fiscal Year – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the authorized positions, reviewed the salary schedules, reviewed the cost-of-living, and reviewed the General Managers salary.

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Executive Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Directors go into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Mr. Stack moved that the Board of Directors go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren,
Weaver, Wiseman
NAY: None
ABSENT: Kramer, Schilz

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session at 7:44 p.m. CDT (6:44 p.m. MDT).

Mr. Rubenthaler opened the meeting room.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Board of Directors return to regular session. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren,
Weaver, Wiseman
NAY: None
ABSENT: Kramer, Schilz

Mr. Stack moved to approve the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the salary schedule steps for each position be increased 3.0% for the 2003 Fiscal Year in recognition of the cost-of-living to maintain the value of the salary compensation and to approve the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the General Manager's salary be set at \$60,000.00 for the 2003 Fiscal Year. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver
NAY: Baldridge, Wiseman
ABSENT: Kramer, Schilz

FINANCIAL REPORT

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Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for May 2002 was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Meismer reported that the Accounts Payable report was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout and that he had reviewed the Accounts Payable and found the report to be in order. Mr. Meismer reviewed the accounts payable for a vehicle purchase, Corners for Wildlife payments, WILD Nebraska payments, tree stock, North Platte Trails, vehicle maintenance and the Cooperative Hydrology Study.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for May 2002 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices listed on the Accounts Payable report for June 2002 in the amount of \$82,522.51. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren,
Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Schilz

Budget Status - Mr. Meismer reported that the Budget Status report was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout.

Bids/Proposals – None were presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the July 11, 2002 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the July 11, 2002 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts would hold a Legislative Wrap Up Session on July 18, 2002 in Grand Island, NE.

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force - No report presented.

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – Mr. Meismer reported on the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council meeting held on June 12, 2002 in Kearney, NE.

Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council - No report presented.

Platte River Basin Meeting – Mr. Rubenthaler and Mr. Wahlgren reported on the Platte River Basin Meeting held on June 7, 2002 in North Platte, NE to discuss the Platte River Cooperative Agreement.

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Requests for Authorization to Travel - No requests were presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Requests for Assistance – No requests for assistance were presented.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that there were no amendments to approved contracts or new contracts.

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Sealing Abandoned Wells – No report presented.

Cost-Share Programs – NE Buffer Strip Program - No report presented.

Tree Program – No report presented.

Range Programs – No report presented.

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs - No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – District Programs – Mr. Bowers reported on the Platte Valley Well Census currently underway.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – 319 Project – No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – Lake McConaughy – Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Ground Water Foundation has begun a program titled “Education To Action: Lake McConaughy”. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a copy of the Nebraska Ground Water Foundation brochure for the “Education To Action: Lake McConaughy” program.

Water Programs –Watershed Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement Relating to Endangered Species –

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ notebook and available as a handout for information was the latest draft of a Nebraska New Depletions Plan and a draft outline and timeline for implementation and he reviewed the information.

Mr. Miller reported on the need for a Nebraska Economic Study in regard to the cost with

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and without a program. Mr. Miller reported that funds budgeted by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for a Nebraska Economic Study were no longer available due to budget cuts. Mr. Miller reported that local agencies including Platte River Basin Natural Resources Districts may need to fund a Nebraska Economic Study, which is estimated to cost between \$150,000.00 and \$200,000.00. Mr. Miller reported that the first draft of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's budget includes funds for a Nebraska Economic Study.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a draft proposal for a National Academy of Sciences Review of the proposed Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species and the science on which the proposed program is based. Mr. Miller reported on the status of initiating the proposal.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report prepared by the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District dated May 2002 in regard to Nebraska's irrigated acres and he reviewed the report.

Mr. Miller reported on the States Only meeting he had attended during which the Tamarack Project in Colorado was discussed.

Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Miller reported that he attends meetings of the Governance Committee and the Water Management Committee as his schedule allows with a priority for attending meetings of the Water Management Committee, which he is a member. Mr. Miller reported that he is participating in meetings in Nebraska about the issues within Nebraska.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Hydrology Study – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Cooperative Hydrology Study. Mr. Miller reported that he participates in the meetings of the sponsors as the representative for the District.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition that was established in regard to the Draft Piping Plover Critical Habitat Designation. Mr. Miller reported that he participates as the District representative on the Board of Directors.

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy, enacted June 10, 1999, is to deny an application for a chemigation permit for an irrigation system in which any portion of the equipment passes directly over flowing waters of the state. Mr. Miller reported that the interpretation of the policy is to deny an application if there is flowing waters of the state at any time even if they are only present intermittently. Mr. Miller reported that the purpose of this policy was to not allow a chemigation permit for an irrigation system that would cause the operator to be in violation of state regulations due to chemicals injected into the irrigation water coming in contact with flowing waters of the state. Mr. Miller reported that a producer has

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requested a chemigation permit for an irrigation system in which a portion of the equipment passes directly over Spring Creek in Keith County so that he could chemigate when upstream water users are diverting all of the water in the creek and the creek is dry. Mr. Miller reported that the District personnel intend to deny this request due to there being flowing waters of the state in the creek except when the flows are altered by upstream water users unless the Board of Directors would like to consider revising the District's policy. No action was taken to revise the current policy.

Regulatory Programs – Erosion and Sediment Control – No report presented.

Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts May 31, 2002 Legislative Update. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors has selected Jim Meisner as one of the five representatives suggested by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts to Governor Johanns to serve on the Water Policy Task Force.

Meetings and Dates of Interest – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were in the Directors' packet and in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout. Mr. Miller reported that this year's Nebraska Water Conference Council's Annual Water & Natural Resources Tour is of the North Platte River Basin in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska July 22-25, 2002. Mr. Miller reported that this tour will see many of the same things that those Directors saw who participated in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District tour of the North Platte River Basin in Wyoming and Nebraska in September 2001 and he encourage any Director who was not able to go last September to consider going on this tour.

Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were in the Directors' packet and in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout.

BUDGET FOR 2003 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the schedule for preparing the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget for the District. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule provides for Board review of the first draft of the Budget during the June Board meeting. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule for preparing the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

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Review Draft #1 - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the first draft of a budget for the 2003 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed budget for the 2003 fiscal year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Ardis Lehmkuhler, Administrative Assistant, retirement will begin at the end of June 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler, thanked Mrs. Lehmkuhler for her 25 years of service to the District. Mr. Rubenthaler, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the District personnel, presented Mrs. Lehmkuhler a watch, a plant and a card.

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. CDT (8:20 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin0602